telecom operators to take various steps which *inter alia* include holding of regular review meetings, streamlining of the procedure for provisioning of PoIs in time bound manner, to provide forecast for demand of PoIs in advance to enable BSNL to plan necessary equipment where feasible so as to reduce the cases of technical non-feasible.

Withdrawal of service tax

295. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to withdraw service tax imposed on postal services since this will lessen the burden of crores of families who survive on remittances sent by working children through money order;

(b) if so, by when Government are expected to act positively for the benefit of crores of families; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) Circular No. 83/1/2006 dated 4th July, 2006 has been issued by Ministry of Finance clarifying that services such as money orders, Postal orders and Operation of Savings Bank Accounts provided by Department of Posts are not leviable to Service Tax under Banking and other Financial Services defined under Section 65(105) (cm) read with section 65(12) of Finance Act, 1994.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Effect of service tax on money order and speed post

296.SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that service tax on certain postal services has been introduced;